

We are entering a dangerous time in broadcast, when stations are self-censoring to provide a partisan point of view. I've heard this issue addressed at OU and having a degree in journalism, I am shocked that ethics are taking a back seat to fair and unbiased reporting. If Sinclair wants to pay the local stations to show their infomercial, like other infomercial companies, that's fine. But to strong-arm local stations into showing heavily biased information is, to coin a phrase, un-American. Where are the rules about fair air time for both candidates?

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.